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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GUATEMALA 000392

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL GT AGR

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT REQUEST FOR GUATEMALAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S.

**¶1.** On February 2 the Embassy received from the MFA a written request for agreement for Jose Guillermo Castillo Villacorta as Guatemalan Ambassador to the U.S., dated January 30, 2004. The original has been pouched to WHA/CEN under registry #306131. Castillo Villacorta is known well and favorably to the Embassy, which requests the prompt attention to the Department to this request.

Begin Text of Note (#DIGRIB-NV-008/2004)

The Ministry of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Guatemala warmly greets the honorable Embassy of the United States of America, and wishes to convey that the Government of the Republic of Guatemala, wishing to strengthen and deepen the fraternal links between our peoples and governments, has decided to nominate Jose Guillermo Castillo Villacorta as the next Ambassador Plenipotentiary, for which purpose we kindly request the corresponding agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Relations would greatly appreciate the assistance of the honorable Embassy of the United States of America to transmit this request to the high authorities of your refined country, to determine if Mr. Jose Guillermo Castillo Villacorta is considered welcome to perform the cited mission, and attaching for your consideration a copy of his Curriculum Vitae.

Complimentary closing.

End Text of Note.

**¶2.** Begin Text of CV

Curriculum Vitae

Jose Guillermo Castillo Villacorta

A professional on Economics who obtained his BA "Cum Laude" from Universidad Francisco Marroquin in Guatemala, he was granted a Fulbright scholarship and obtained his Masters in Business Administration at J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, specializing in Finance, Marketing, Organizational Behavior and Accounting.

His professional expertise has developed in the public sector as well as in the private sector. From April 1, 1998 through July 31, 1999, he held the office of Vice Minister of Economy in charge of Trade Issues, he was responsible for the Central American Integration Process, the international trade negotiations of Guatemala in bilateral and multilateral forums, the administration of the commitments derive from the International Trade Agreements and the project to create the National Quality System, among other issues.

He was Minister of Economy from August 1, 1999 through January 14, 2000. He worked on trade issues, regional integration, international trade negotiations, technical rules, promotion of investments, competitiveness programs, support to SME, and promotion of exports.

During the first semester of the year 2000, as a delegate of the Ministry of Economy, he coordinated and concluded the negotiations of the Free Trade Agreement with Mexico, a process in which he participated from 1996 through its closing, playing different roles.

Prior to his participation in the public sector, he was very active in the private sector, both in Guatemala and internationally. He has worked in banking, insurance, bonds and the capital market, as well as in the industrial and commercial sectors. In the organized private sector he has been Director and Treasurer of the Guatemalan Chamber of Industry, Coordinator of the Economic Commission of the business sector, delegate from the business sector in the Puebla - Panama Plan, Director of the Business Council for the International Trade Negotiations and member of the Executive Committee of the National Competitiveness Program coordinated by the Guatemalan Ministry of Economy, among other duties.

In activities of social responsibility, he participated as Director of FUNDESA, Director and President of Fundes Guatemala and Director of the Mariano and Rafael Castillo

Cordova Foundation. He has also been a professor in Business Strategy, World Political and Economical Order, International Trade and Marketing, both in undergraduate and graduate degrees, in the most prestigious private universities in Guatemala, such as Universidad Francisco Marroquin, Universidad Rafael Landivar and Universidad del Istmo.

At the present time he is the Director of Strategic Planning of Cerveceria Centroamericana, S.A., and advisor of foreign trade issues to different companies, and is vice-president of the Guatemalan Chamber of Industry.

End Text of CV.

HAMILTON